

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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O 271918Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3267
SECDEF WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA
COMSIXTHFLT NAPLES IT
COMNAVSURFLANT NORFOLK VA
COMSUBRON SIXTEEN
COMNAVACT ROTA SP
NAVSTA ROTA SP
FOCCEUR LONDON UK
COMNAVINTCOM ALEXANDRIA VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 00989

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, SP
SUBJECT: NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIP VISITS TO SPAIN (USS
NIMITZ, CALIFORNIA, SOUTH CAROLINA TO ROTA, 18 APRIL -
2 MAY)

REF: (A) CNO 251820Z JAN 78, (B) MADRID 00897, DTG
251702Z JAN 78, (C) MADRID 00807, DTG 232040Z JAN 78,
(D) MADRID 00885, DTG 251453Z JAN 78

1. AT MEETING JANUARY 26 OF US-SPANISH JOINT COMMITTEE
FOR POLITICO-MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS, FORMAL
REQUEST WAS MADE FOR SPANISH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL. THE
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U.S. SIDE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PARTICULAR
VISIT FOR THE WELFARE AND MORALE OF THE OFFICERS AND
MEN OF THESE SHIPS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHO WOULD BE
REUNITED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE VISIT. IT WAS POINTED
OUT THAT THE SHIPS WOULD HAVE TO BE IN THE STRAITS AREA
IN ANY EVENT AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF A SUBSEQUENT
EXERCISE (WHICH WE DID NOT SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFY AS

EXERCISE OPEN GATE). THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE RESPONSE WAS REQUESTED.

2. SPANISH DIPLOMATIC CO-CHAIRMAN (THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS) ASKED TO BE INFORMED WHETHER IT WOULD BE THE INTENTION OF THE U.S. NAVY TO MAKE USE OF THE PORT OF GIBRALTAR DURING THE EXERCISE. (HIS QUESTION WAS SOMEWHAT LOOSELY PHRASED, AND COULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED TO REFER ONLY TO THE THREE SHIPS VISITING ROTA, BUT WE BELIEVE HIS INTENT WAS PROBABLY BROADER.) THE U.S. SIDE NOTED THAT THE VISIT TO SPAIN IS PRIOR TO THE EXERCISE BUT UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE A FURTHER RESPONSE.

3. COMMENT: THE SENIOR SPANISH OFFICIAL WHO POSED THIS QUESTION, AND WHOSE VIEWS WILL STRONGLY INFLUENCE THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, HAS IN THE PAST PROVED PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO USN NORT VISITS TO GIBRALTAR. IT WAS IN PART ON THE BASIS OF OUR ARGUMENT THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF THE SPANISH PORTS FOR NPWS WOULD REDUCE, ALTHOUGH NOT ELIMINATE, OUR NEED FOR GIBRALTAR THAT THE GOS GAVE ITS APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF ROTA FOR NPWS. THE SPANISH OFFICIAL IS FULLY AWARE THAT WE WILL NOT AGREE TO TIE OUR HANDS WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF GIBRALTAR, BUT THIS DOES NOT REDUCE HIS SENSITIVITY'

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4. IN REPLY TO THE QUESTION RAISED IN PARA TWO ABOVE, IT WOULD BE OUR INTENTION TO PROVIDE HIM WITH AN ANSWER RELATING ONLY TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE THREE SHIPS AFTER THEIR ROTA VISIT. IF PRESSED FURTHER REGARDING VISITS TO GIBRALTAR BY OTHER SHIPS BEFORE OR DURING EXERCISE, WE WOULD INTEND TO TAKE THE LINE THAT WE HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT WE COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT AGREE TO ANY ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT OUR OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE USE OF GIBRALTAR. IF THE QUESTION OF GIBRALTAR BECOMES AN ISSUE, WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE THE MATTER TO A HIGHER LEVEL.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

- A. INFORMATION TO BE PASSED TO THE SPANISH
- REGARDING POSSIBLE PORT VISITS TO GIBRALTAR BY
- THE THREE SHIPS DURING EXERCISE AFTER THEIR
- ROTA VISIT;

- B. INFORMATION ON VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS (OTHER
- THAN ROTA) BY OTHER USN SHIPS IMMEDIATELY BEFORE
- EXERCISE;

- C. FOR OUR USE ONLY, INFORMATION ON PORT VISITS
- TO GIBRALTAR BY OTHER USN SHIPS IMMEDIATELY
- BEFORE OR DURING EXERCISE;

- D. SOME PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE ON NUMBER FF DEPENDENTS
- WHO WOULD BE COMING TO SPAIN DURING PROSPECTIVE
- ROTA VISIT. STABLER

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Message Attributes

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